(b) if so, Government's views on his statement; and

(c) the proposed attitude of Government in normalising the relations with Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government was deeply disappointed by some of the comments made by President Musharraf in his interview to a news channel (NDTV) on June 14, 2003. The most distressing were his comments on Kargil and the implication that military adventurism of that nature is a legitimate instrument for furthering Pakistan's designs on Jammu and Kashmir. General Musharraf and other Pakistani leaders have also repeatedly made suggestions for a role for a third party in resolving India-Pakistan differences. Such suggestions are not in keeping with the Simla Agreement and are unacceptable.

(c) Prime Minister had, on April 18, 2003 extended the hand of friendship once again to Pakistan. Subsequently, India has taken the initiative to move in a step-by-step manner to normalise diplomatic and other links between the two countries. Government also believe that creation of a conducive atmosphere for a sustained dialogue necessarily requires an end to cross border terrorism and dismantling of its infrastructure. Progress in economic cooperation, cultural exchanges and people to people contacts would help create an environment in which difficult issues could be addressed.

Invitation to Urdu writers by Mauritius

1990. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Mauritius had invited Urdu writers from India for the World Urdu Conference in April, 2003;

(b) whether such participation from India was not allowed by Government; and

(c) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes. The World Urdu Conference, originally scheduled in April 2003, was postponed to 2—6 August 2003.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.